United Nations A/68/704–S/2014/19

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 January 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 42
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 9 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 27 December 2013, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 13 December 2013, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/68/665-S/2013/738), which yet again contains false allegations similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, the Greek Cypriot representative should be reminded that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention of 1974, undertaken in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, as "invasion". Such distortions are purely a Greek Cypriot forgery aimed at blurring the issue and confusing the innocent with the guilty. On this point, it is imperative to recall the dramatic statement made by Archbishop Makarios, the Greek Cypriot leader at the time, before the Security Council on 19 July 1974, in which he openly accused Greece, not Turkey, of invading and occupying Cyprus. His remarks, which came only four days after the Greek coup of 15 July 1974, are well recorded in the annals of the United Nations and hardly require further elaboration.

As regards the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to underline that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and permission of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. Similarly, the allegation raised in the above-mentioned letter in relation to Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. This constitutes yet another effort aimed at distorting the facts and the realities of the island.

As noted in our previous letters, such assertions are based on the false and unlawful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory, national airspace and territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious assertion by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As for the repeated false claims regarding the Ercan airport in the North, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in Northern Cyprus have been providing successful and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island in line with its isolation policy imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and

consent of the Civil Aviation Department of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control. The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety reflects all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing safe, regular and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan airport as well as using the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus airspace. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is in constant and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In fact, each year more than 19,000 flights take place to and from the Ercan airport, serving over 2 million passengers, including Greek Cypriots, and approximately 600 aircraft per day pass through the Ercan advisory airspace. In the year 2012 alone, 2,777,000 passengers used the Ercan airport. It is predicted that this number will be around 3 million in 2013. In sum, the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944 and is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

It is noteworthy, in this regard, that the Greek Cypriot daily *Fileleftheros* reported on 23 September 2012 that nearly 100 air traffic controllers serving in South Cyprus had sent an informing document to all Greek Cypriot political parties concerning their problems and shortcomings in providing satisfactory air traffic control, pointing out, inter alia, the fact that a most-needed new meteorology radar had not been purchased and 55 controller vacancies could not be filled. Given its evident difficulties in providing effective air navigation services and the existence of an agreed United Nations platform for cooperation, namely the technical committees, which can also be established on an ad hoc basis, it is difficult to understand the Greek Cypriot refusal to cooperate on the very important technical issue of aviation safety. The refusal of the Nicosia area control centre to cooperate with the Ercan area control centre inevitably has a negative effect on efforts to increase flight safety in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean regions. We believe that establishing a cooperative relationship on the issue of aviation safety shall be a most-needed positive development on the island and the region, serving as a confidence-building measure, especially at a time when the full-fledged negotiations have come to a standstill owing to the intransigent Greek Cypriot stance.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false accounts, to confer legitimacy upon the long-defunct "Republic of Cyprus" are futile, since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed contribute to a better atmosphere on the island is for the Greek Cypriot side to stop misappropriating for itself the rights and responsibilities that it does not legally have, and to cease its hostile and derogatory acts against the Turkish Cypriot people. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of the Turkish Cypriot rights in the north of the island does not bode well for the prospects of finding a lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations

parameters, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to call on the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue its well-known propaganda and delaying tactics and pave the way for the earliest resumption of the full-fledged negotiations between the two leaders under your good offices mission for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. As the Turkish Cypriot side, we are committed to continuing to maintain our constructive and positive stance and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus